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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER TREASURY EMPLOYEE AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR
PLEAD GUILTY TO WIRE FRAUD AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that former Treasury Department employee Veronica Hardy-Everette, age 56, and her spouse, Charles Daniel Everette, age 62, both of Suitland, Maryland, pled guilty before United States District Court Judge Roger W. Titus to conspiracy, wire fraud and conflict of interest charges.

According to an agreed statement presented to the court, from May 1988 until January 2004, Veronica Hardy-Everette was an employee of the Financial Management Service, a bureau of the United States Department of the Treasury that managed the disbursement of federal funds. As an Employee Development Specialist in the training branch, Hardy-Everette determined the training needs of Treasury Department employees and procured training services from private businesses.

Hardy-Everette's husband, Charles Daniel Everette, provided computer training services using the business names C&D Training Consultants and Computer Image. During January 1999 through September 2000, Hardy-Everette used her official position to award 105 training agreements

worth more than \$139,600 to her husband's companies.

Veronica Hardy-Everette and Charles Everette had been charged in a 29-count indictment alleging conspiracy, wire fraud, and conflict of interest charges. They now face a maximum of five years in prison for each offense.

Judge Titus scheduled sentencing for November 29, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. for Veronica Hardy-Everette and at 10:30 a.m. for Charles Everette.

The case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General, United States Treasury Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Barbara S. Skalla, Michael R. Puzé, and Stuart A. Berman.